

Claims

1. Apparatus for use in the alignment of a dental
5 prosthesis, said apparatus comprising:-

an implant (2) for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, the implant having a generally axial bore (17);

a plurality of angled templates (1) for use with said implant, each one of said templates having a circular cross-
10 section locator lug (6) for inter-engagement with the axial bore of the implant; and

an abutment to which the prosthesis is formed;

wherein said plurality of templates (1) are provided in a range of angles from 5° to 45°, whereby in use one of said 15 templates is selected for use in determining which abutment to use, the selection of said one template being on the basis of a correct orientation of an alignment element thereof relative to the existing teeth of the patient.

20 2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the locator lug comprises a frusto-cone having its portion of smaller diameter towards the free end of the lug.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the locator lug 25 further comprises an extension piece extending generally axially along the axis of the frusto-cone.

4. Apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising a plurality of driving flats disposed about the mouth of the 30 template bore and adapted for inter-connection with corresponding elements on the implant.

5. Apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 4 wherein the

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frusto-cone is additionally provided with a plurality of driving flats.

6. Apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the
5 template comprises a shaft remote from the locator lug, said
shaft has been adapted to mimic the angle of existing teeth
when rotated.

7. A system for use in the alignment of a dental prosthesis,
10 said system comprising:-

inserting an implant (2) in the jaw bone of a patient, the
implant having a generally axial bore (17);

providing a plurality of angled templates (1), for use
with said implant, each one of said templates having a
15 circular cross-section locator lug (6) for inter-engagement
with the axial bore of the implant and wherein said plurality
of templates (1) are provided in a range of angles from 5° to
45°;

selecting one of said templates for use in determining
20 which abutment to use, the selection of the template being on
the basis of a correct orientation of an alignment element
thereof relative to the existing teeth of the patient.

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